GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2931
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2003
INADEQUATE FUNDING FOR RESEARCH
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission, in oneof its reports, has observed that the Universities are not able to concentrate on research and development due to inadequate funding by the UGC;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to provide more funds to the universities to promote research?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA)

(a): Yes, Sir. In this respect ERC in its recent report has made the following observations:

`The UGC has responsibility for extending assistance for both standards of teaching and for research. However, within the resources available to the UGC, the share of research is a small fraction. Apart from other equally valid reasons, this situation is also responsible for universities steadily losing primacy in the R&D effort in the country.`

(b) & (c): The UGC is in agreement with the general recommendations of the ERC for the increased funding in research. However,the disbursement of grants to the universities and colleges for different programmes, including Research projects, depends on the quantum of funds made available to the UGC. Despite the financial constraints, the research has been aprime concern of the UGC. The UGC has been providingassistance to Universities/Colleges and individual teachers for researchunder its different schemes, which include:

1. Teaching and Research in Interdisciplinary areas.

2. Assistance for strengthening of infrastructure in Sciences & Technology(ASIST)

3. Special Assistance Programme (SAP) in Humanities, Social Sciences, Arts, Law and Engineering & Tech.

4. Research Projects to teachers

5. Advanced centers for Science Education & Research
6. Research Awards

7 Research Fellowship

8. Research workshop, Seminars